



GRAYSLAKE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 127

400 NORTH LAKE STREET
GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS 60030

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96-45

FAX - 202-418-2801

April 7, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington D. C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a Superintendent from Grayslake Community High School District 127, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The amount of money saved by our District from discounts would be used for staff in-service and the purchasing of computer software and hardware for our students. Without adequate funds, its hard to use the internet.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ray A. Novak
Superintendent

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

April 2, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket 96-45: Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization (ILCSO), a statewide consortium of 45 member libraries, I am writing in strong support of the important discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for the telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are crucial for living in an increasingly information-driven world.

Since ILCSO is rapidly moving toward a new system environment which is Internet-based, and where telecommunications access and costs become a key factor for full participation in gaining access to various online information services, the importance of universal service to libraries and schools at an affordable cost is a paramount concern.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring, and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford such Internet connection costs. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of Illinois.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important matter for our libraries and schools. Appropriate actions to make universal service available to our libraries and schools at discounted, affordable rates, will ultimately provide improved equity in access to information services and a better educated community which benefits everyone. Please feel free to call on us for any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bradley F. Baker'.

Bradley F. Baker
ILCSO President

University Librarian
Northeastern Illinois University

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March 4, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

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APR - 9, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is not doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

At St. John the Baptist Parochial School, in Silver Spring, Maryland, it is our understanding that the wiring cost could be additionally expensive because of asbestos removal requirements.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Vickie M. Belknap

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Branch Intermediate School District

Coldwater, Michigan 49036-1499

Administration Offices

370 Morse Street
517-279-5730
Fax 279-5766

Branch Area Careers Center

366 Morse Street
517-279-5721
Fax 279-5777

Special Education Offices

200 Bishop Avenue
517-279-5800
Fax 278-5282

Michigan Relay Service

1-800-649-3777
(Voice and TDD)

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 844
Washington DC 20554

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As Business Manager of the Branch Intermediate School District, I know the importance of affordable access for all school districts and education consortia to the Information Superhighway. Your dedication in ensuring that such access becomes a reality is greatly appreciated.

The telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing today's students to be a part of the workforce of tomorrow.

The school districts within the Branch Intermediate School District are mostly rural and small. Distance learning and Internet connection will provide opportunities for students that these school districts cannot afford without the availability of deep discounts for telecommunication services.

The FCC's support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools is needed by our students. These deep discounts for telecommunication services need to be available as soon as possible. I trust that you will support the discount plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Crandall
Business Manager

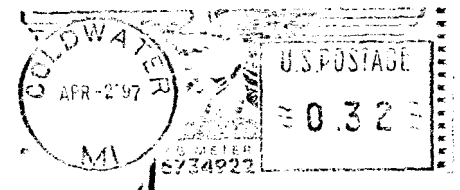
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STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

The Branch Intermediate School District Board of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Branch Intermediate School District Board of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed or ancestry, age, sex, marital status or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in employment or in any program or activity to which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Branch Intermediate School District

*370 Morse Street
Coldwater, Michigan 49036-1499*



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THE HONORABLE REED HUNDT CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET NW
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